

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Imamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,752). In response, Applicant amended independent claims 1 and 16 to further define the slider body as having a trailing end surface defining a trailing end of the slider body farthest from the leading end of the slider body, and also the location of the slit in the trailing end surface relative to a movable block and a stationary block, and respectfully traverse the rejection as it applies to the amended claims.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that a slit in FIG. 3 of Imamura corresponds to one of the slits 35 of the present invention. The Examiner asserts that the marked-up copy of FIG. 3 of Imamura has a slit extending from a leading end to a trailing end of the slider body. Applicants respectfully submit that the slit identified by the Examiner is located internally within the slider body, and does not extend to an exterior edge (i.e., trailing end) of the slider body shown in FIG. 3 of Imamura. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the slit defined by the Examiner is not defined in a trailing end surface of the slider body so as to separate a movable block from a stationary block in the slider body, with a movable block including a part of the trailing end surface, and the stationary block including a remaining part of the trailing end surface separated from the part of the trailing end surface by the slit, as now recited in the amended claims.


In contrast, as shown in FIG. 2 of the present application, for example, a read/write electromagnetic transducer 23 is located adjacent to a trailing end of a slider body 22. The present invention has slits 35 defined in the trailing end surface of the slider body

that extend from the trailing end of the slider body toward a leading end of the slider body. Additionally, a stationary block 37 and a movable block 38 are defined in a slider body 22. The movable block 38 is at least partially spaced from the stationary block 37 by the slits 35, and has the read/write electromagnetic transducer 23 mounted thereon. Thus, the slits 35 separate the trailing end surface of the stationary block from the trailing end surface of the movable block. Since Imamura fails to disclose or suggest this feature, as now recited in the amended claims, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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